



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Raised Bill No. 189

LCO No. 1050

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Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SERVICES
FOR PERSONS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) As used in this section
2 "traumatic brain injury" means an injury to the brain caused by
3 physical trauma that may include a collision, fall or physical assault
4 and that is of sufficient severity to result in impairment in one or more
5 of the following areas: Cognition; language; attention; reasoning;
6 abstract thinking; judgment; problem solving; sensory, perceptual and
7 motor abilities; psychosocial behavior; physical functions; information
8 processing or memory. "Traumatic brain injury" does not include a
9 brain injury that is congenital, degenerative or induced by birth
10 trauma.

11 (b) (1) There is established an advisory council to the Governor and
12 the Commissioner of Social Services to address the needs of persons
13 with traumatic brain injury. The council shall consist of the following
14 members: (A) The Commissioner of Social Services or the

15 commissioner's designee; (B) four representatives of the Department of
16 Social Services, who are appointed by the commissioner not later than
17 October 1, 2010, (i) one who shall have expertise in the area of
18 children's services; (ii) one who shall have expertise in the area of
19 mental health; (iii) one who shall have expertise in the area of public
20 health; and (iv) one who shall have expertise in the area of vocational
21 rehabilitation; (C) the Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs or the
22 commissioner's designee; (D) the Commissioner of Correction or the
23 commissioner's designee; (E) the Commissioner of Economic and
24 Community Development or the commissioner's designee; (F) the
25 Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard or the Adjutant
26 General's designee; (G) the Executive Director of the Office of
27 Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities or the executive
28 director's designee; and (H) the Executive Director of the Brain Injury
29 Association of Connecticut or the executive director's designee.

30 (2) The council shall also consist of the following members, each
31 appointed by the Governor not later than October 1, 2010: (A) A
32 representative from an organization serving veterans; (B) a
33 representative of a federally-recognized tribe located in Connecticut;
34 (C) a neuropsychologist who has experience working with persons
35 with traumatic brain injury; (D) a social worker or clinical psychologist
36 who has experience working with persons with traumatic brain injury;
37 (E) a rehabilitation specialist, such as a speech pathologist, vocational
38 rehabilitation counselor, occupational therapist or physical therapist,
39 who has experience working with persons with traumatic brain injury;
40 (F) a person with a traumatic brain injury; (G) a family member of a
41 person with traumatic brain injury; and (H) a member of the public
42 who has experience with issues related to the causes of traumatic brain
43 injury. Each member appointed by the Governor under this subsection
44 shall be appointed, to the extent practicable, to represent both rural
45 and urban areas of the state.

46 (c) The advisory council shall elect, by a majority vote, one
47 chairperson from among its members. Members of the advisory

48 council shall serve without compensation, except for necessary
49 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

50 (d) The duties of the council shall include, but not be limited to,
51 developing a comprehensive plan to address the needs of persons with
52 traumatic brain injury. In developing such plan, the council shall
53 consider: (1) Increasing provider capacity and provider training; (2)
54 improving the coordination of services; (3) establishing agreements
55 with private community-based agencies to develop services for
56 persons with traumatic brain injury; and (4) recommendations to
57 address the needs of persons with traumatic brain injury.

58 (e) (1) Not later than December 1, 2010, the council shall submit a
59 preliminary report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general
60 statutes, to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the
61 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
62 services. The preliminary report shall include, but not be limited to, the
63 use of public-private partnerships to serve persons with traumatic
64 brain injury.

65 (2) Not later than December 1, 2011, the council shall submit a final
66 report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the
67 Governor and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
68 having cognizance of matters relating to human services. The final
69 report shall include a comprehensive state-wide plan to address the
70 needs of persons with traumatic brain injury.

71 (f) Commencing January 1, 2012, the council shall meet with the
72 Commissioner of Social Services not less than one time per year to
73 make recommendations to address the needs of persons with
74 traumatic brain injury.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To establish an advisory commission to address the needs of persons with traumatic brain injury.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]